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ABSTRACT

From Fiscal Year (FY) 1967 through FY 1974, the allocation for each state's Title I migrant education grant was determined through a formula utilizing estimates of the migratory agricultural labor population of each state. Until the Migrant Student Record Transfer System was fully validated in FY 1975, there were no totally reliable counts of actual numbers or periods of residence of migratory children in each state. Revisions to allocation computation procedures occurred with the passage of Public Laws 90-247, 93-380, and 94-482. The allocation formula now operates as follows: (1) each state accumulates one residency day for each day that a migratory child is resident in that state; (2) a state's total of accumulated residency days is divided by 365; (3) each state total full-time-equivalent is then multiplied by 40% of the state's per pupil expenditure rate; (4) the computed amount then provides the total amount available for grant to each state. Individual state allocation totals provide the total national program allocation. The amount of funding is then taken 100% "off-the-top" of the total Title I authorization. Allocations have increased from $9,737,847 for 169,910 children in FY 1967 to $245,000,000 for 369,182 children in FY 1981. (NEC)

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RC 012996

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Title I, ESEA, Migrant Education Program
Funding History

January, 1981

From Fiscal Year (FY) 1967 through FY 1974, the total amount available for each State's Title I migrant education grant was determined through a formula that used, as a standard base, estimates of the migratory agricultural labor population of each State.

The U.S. Department of Labor gathered this data from seasonal offices of the U.S. Employment Service (USES) which conducted mid-month and end-of-month "checks" with growers, crew leaders, and laborers, and which also maintained figures on the number of workers referred to other States for agricultural employment. Personnel from the USES offices visited the farms and fields on the 15th and 30th of each month to consult with farmers, crew leaders, and individual workers to arrive at a determination of the estimated number of agricultural migrants. These figures were then released by the U.S. Employment Service as State and national monthly statistical reports.

The U.S. Department of Education then determined from these reports the average number of workers residing in the States on both full- and part-time bases during the year. Essentially, this process was accomplished by averaging a State's monthly statistics from the entire calendar year period. A factor of .75 (.75 children for each one migratory worker) was then applied against each State's estimated number of migratory workers. This factor was estimated based on prior statistical reports of the U.S. Department of Labor, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and individual State agencies.

The formula count of migratory children for each State (actually a full-time equivalent (FTE) count, since the formula considered both the number of workers and the period of residency) was then multiplied by 50% of the State's per pupil expenditure (PPE) rate.

The Migrant Student Record Transfer System (MSRTS) was not fully operational until FY 1972, and not fully validated and accepted for official counting purposes until FY 1975. Therefore, for the first eight years of the Title I migrant education program, there were no totally reliable counts of the actual number of migratory children in each State, or the period of residency of those children.

Beginning with the FY 1975 migrant education program, statistics from the Migrant Student Record Transfer System were utilized in computing the total amount available for each State grant.

The U.S. Department of Education began computing the FTE count of migratory children (both currently and formerly) through a special computer program run, the Migrant Program Allocation Subsystem (MPAS). Within each calendar year period (January 1 - December 31), the MPAS mechanism is designed to determine the exact length of time that each identified migratory child resides in any given State or States. The MPAS provided (and still provides) a vehicle to more equitably distribute migrant education funds based on a formula of three variables -

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(a) The number of identified migratory children resident (full- or part-time) in each State.

(b) The exact number of days that each identified migratory child is resident in each State (not to exceed 365 days total for each child applied across one or more States).

(c) The various State per pupil expenditure rates (adjusted so as not to vary unreasonably from the national average per pupil expenditure rate).

More specifically, the allocation formula now operates as follows:

(1) Each State accumulates one residency day for each day (during the calendar year period) that a migratory child is resident in that State.

(2) A State's total of accumulated residency days is divided by 365 (each 365 accumulated residency days would equal one FTE).

(3) Each State's total FTE is then multiplied by 40% of the State's per pupil expenditure rate (adjusted to not less than 40% of 80% nor more than 40% of 120% of the national average per pupil expenditure rate).

The computed amount then provides the total amount available for grant to each State (held harmless since FY 1975 to 100% of the prior year's amount available for grant to each State). The total of the individual State allocations (as computed from MPAS statistics or held harmless from the prior year's allocation) provides the total national program allocation. The amount of funding is then taken 100% "off-the-top" of the total Title I authorization.

Since FY 1969, a pre-determined amount has been withheld by the Commissioner of Education for funding, as a special arrangement, the contract for the Migrant Student Record Transfer System. The total amount withheld is shared equitably, drawn proportionately from each State's grant amount.

The remainder is then made available to each participating State educational agency (SEA), subject only to variances due to the following circumstances:

(1) A release of excess funds, as determined by the SEA.

(2) A withholding of excess funds, as determined by the Commissioner of Education.

(3) A partial or full withholding of funds to provide for special arrangements by the Commissioner of Education for program services because of -

(a) An unwilling or unable SEA.

(b) The prospect of more efficient or economic administration through another agency.

(c) The prospect of securing better educational attainment or welfare for migrant children through another agency.

In reviewing State Title I migrant education allocations from the program's inception to the present, the following should be noted:

(1) The Education Amendments of 1967 (P.L. 90-247), taking effect with FY 1968 programs, provided that Title I State agency programs were to be fully-funded at a 100% level "off-the-top" of the total Title I authorization. However, the individual State migrant education allocations for the first year of program operation (FY 1967) reflected a ratable reduction.

(2) The Education Amendments of 1974 (P.L. 93-380), taking effect with FY 1975 programs, provided some additional revisions -

(a) State per pupil expenditure rates (or an adjusted national PPE) were to be multiplied against a Federal participation percentage rate of 40%, reduced from the previous 50%.

(b) Title I State agency programs were to be held harmless at 100% of the prior year's allocation.

(c) SEA migrant education allocations were to be computed on the basis of MSRTS statistics (or held harmless to FY 1974 allocations based on U.S. Department of Labor statistics, or any ensuing year's higher count provided by MSRTS statistics).

(d) SEA migrant education allocations were to be computed with a count of formerly migratory children (in addition to the count of currently migratory children).

(e) SEA migrant education allocations were to be computed with a count of migratory fisher children (in addition to the count of migratory agricultural children).

Formerly migratory children represent 37% of the FY 1979 funding count; fisher children represent 1.4%. Together (because of some status overlap), formerly migratory children and fisher children represent 38% of the FY 1979 funding count.

Because of the 100% State agency hold-harmless provision included in the Education Amendments of 1974 (P.L. 93-380), eleven States received FY 1979 Title I migrant education allocations based on a FY 1974 funding "floor" established by U.S. Department of Labor statistics, as follows:

(1) Alabama
(2) Maryland
(3) Montana
(4) New Jersey
(5) North Dakota
(6) Ohio
(7) South Carolina
(8) South Dakota
(9) Tennessee
(10) Virginia
(11) West Virginia

An additional seven States received FY 1979 allocations based on a funding "floor" established by a high count in FY 1975, 1976, 1977, or 1978, reflecting an actual FTE count of migratory children enrolled in the MSRTS, as follows:

(1) Connecticut (FY 1977)
(2) Florida (FY 1977)
(3) Idaho (FY 1977)
(4) Indiana (FY 1977)
(5) Michigan (FY 1977)
(6) New Mexico (FY 1975)
(7) Wyoming (FY 1975)

(3) The Education Amendments of 1976 (P.L. 94-482) provided that, beginning with FY 1978 programs, State per pupil expenditure rates were to be calculated with data from the third prior fiscal year (rather than the 2nd prior fiscal year). Therefore, in computing both the FY 1977 and 1978 program allocations, essentially the same per pupil expenditure rates were used, with only minor technical adjustments.

For the FY 1980 and 1981 Title I migrant education programs, and for future fiscal year programs, the Migrant Student Record Transfer System now provides a refined management information report that identifies the actual total number of eligible migratory children, aged 0-21, enrolled by a State (in addition to the FTE count of only those children aged 5-17). Although the former figure represents a more accurate count of the actual total number of migratory children resident in an individual State and eligible for program services, only the FTE count of those children aged 5-17 is used in computing State allocations.

Finally, it is also noted that the scope of a State's Title I migrant education program, in relation to its total Title I program of compensatory educational services, varies quite significantly from State to State. Although the national migrant education allocation represents only 6.37% of the total Title I allocation for FY 1980 (reduced by State administration amounts), several State migrant education allocations vary considerably from that percentage in terms of a comparison with that individual State's total

Title I allocation (again, reduced by the State administration amount), as follows:

(1)	Idaho	-	28%
(2)	Texas	-	22.5%
(3)	Washington	-	18%
(4)	Florida	-	16.5%
(5)	Maine	-	16.5%
(6)	Arizona	-	16%
(7)	California	-	15.5%
(8)	Oregon	-	11.5%
(9)	New Mexico	-	10.5%

Title I, ESEA, Migrant Education Program
National Child Counts and Allocations

	FORMULA CHILDREN (FTE)	ALLOCATION
FY 1967	169,910	$ 9,737,847
FY 1968	163,282	$ 41,692,425
FY 1969	157,153	$ 45,556,074
FY 1970	159,650	$ 51,014,319
FY 1971	161,026	$ 57,608,680
FY 1972	161,859	$ 64,822,926
FY 1973	162,480	$ 72,772,187
FY 1974	162,480	$ 78,331,437
FY 1975	212,473	$ 91,953,160
FY 1976	207,474	$ 97,090,478
FY 1977	267,791	$130,909,832
FY 1978	296,428	$145,759,940
FY 1979	323,504	$173,548,829
FY 1980	346,205	$209,593,746
FY 1981	369,082	$245,000,000